



QUALIFYING FINALS SET IN PALMETTO PRO OPEN
16 players vying for final 8 spots in Main Draw on Tuesday

SUMTER, SC May 20, 2013 – After three days of competition in the Singles Qualifying Draw of the Palmetto Pro Open – a USTA \$10,000 Women’s Pro Circuit event – only 16 players are left. The eight players that can win one more match will find them in the Palmetto Pro Open Main Draw while the other eight will be moving on to their next tournament.

Sunday saw the exit of the top two seeds in the Qualifying Draw, as well as the fifth seed. On Monday, third-seeded **Denise Muresan** (USA) took down **Mercedes Hammond** (USA) 6-1, 6-0 and No. 4 seed **Amanda Rodgers** (USA) cruised over **Rosalyn Small** (USA), who was playing her first match of the tournament after receiving a bye in the first round and winning via walk-over in the second round, 6-0, 6-0.

Three matches were suspended by weather on Sunday, but finished up Monday morning. **Jacqueline Wu** (USA) survived **Amelie Intert** (GER) 6-7(3), 6-0, 7-5, **Xue Chang** (CHN) defeated **Anna Wierda** (USA) 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, **Alexandra Walters** (AUS) beat **Petra Hule** (AUS) 6-4, 6-7(2), 6-0. In their second matches of the day, Wu defeated **Mariaryeni Gutierrez** (VEN) 6-3, 6-3, and will face Rodgers in the qualifying finals; Zhang fell to **Michelle Sammons** (RSA) 6-0, 6-4; and Walters lost to **Alexandra Morozova** (USA) 6-4, 6-0.

After upsetting top qualifying seed **Sherry Li** (USA) on Sunday, **Samantha Asch** (USA) kept rolling with a 6-3, 6-2 win over **Khristina Blajkevitch** (CAN). Asch will face **Alexandra Starkova** (ESP) in the qualifying finals after Starkova defeated **Jemileth Aguilar** (VEN) 6-4, 6-0.

Yukako Noi (JPN) knocked off No. 2 seed **Ashley Murdock** (USA) on Sunday, and won again on Monday with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over **Jada Robinson** (USA). Noi will take on **Sydney Campbell** (USA) with a spot in the Main Draw on the line Tuesday after Campbell defeated **Peyton Gollhofer** (USA) 6-0, 6-1.

Facing Muresan in the qualifying finals will be **Anna Smith** (USA). Smith beat **Trelsie Sadler** (USA) 6-4, 6-4 to advance to the qualifying finals.

Josie Kuhlman (USA) took down fifth-seeded **Jainy Scheepens** (NED) on Sunday, but on Monday **Paris Todd** (USA) defeated Kuhlman 7-6(5), 6-3. With that victory, Todd lined up a spot to face Sammons in the qualifying finals.

Whitney McCray (USA) will face Morozova in the qualifying finals after rallying to defeat **Tereza Kolarova** (CZE) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Taylor L. Davidson (USA) and **Maddison Inglis** (AUS) earned their spots in the qualifying finals and will face each other with a spot in the Main Draw on the line. Davidson defeated **Hadley Berg** (USA) 6-3, 6-1 and Inglis survived **Ellyse Hamlin** (USA) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Rounding out the qualifying finals are **Magdalena Ekert** (POL) and **Emerald Able** (USA). Ekert outlasted **Ryann Foster** (USA) 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 and Able took down **Apichaya Runglerdkriangkrai** (THA) 6-2, 3-4, ret.

Doubles tennis action also got underway on Monday at the PTC with two qualifying doubles matches. The team of Asch/Zhang took care of Walters and **Katherine White** (GBR), while **Martina Frantova** (SVK) and **Belinda Woolcock** (AUS) downed Smith and **Stephanie J. Smith** (USA) 6-2, 6-2. Both Asch/Zhang and Frantova/Woolcock teams are now in the Doubles Main Draw.

The Qualifying Draw will wrap up tomorrow with the remaining eight matches starting at 9 a.m. The Singles Main Draw and Doubles Main Draw will begin after those matches.

Tuesday's Feature Match will pit **Hiroko Kuwata** (JPN) versus second-seeded **Sanaz Marand** (USA)

For more information, contact:

Patrick Enzor, Tournament Press Aide

Office: (803)774-1662; Cell: (803)795-2393

Email: penzor@sumter-sc.com